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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
in the
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Including Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector
for
1959

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	111,692	acres
Number of Parishes	52	
Rateable Value (1.4.60)	.. .. .	£415,429	
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£1,645	
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (1.4.60)	.. .. .	13,615	
Estimated mid-year Home Population	.. .. .	42,980	
Census Population 1951	.. .. .	38,645	

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	18.3
(Corrected)	19.4
Death Rate	11.3
(Corrected)	9.7
Infant Mortality Rate	12.7

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Captain F. Johnson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor F. W. Flinders.

Councillors:

Austin, W. H.	Norman, C. A.
Aves, L. H. (to May, 1959)	Pease, M. S., M.A.
Barker, R.	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Bavester, L. M.	Pemberton, Mrs. D. P.
Bennett, Col. C. R., T.D., D.L., F.R.I.C.S.	Porteous, Mrs. D.
(from May, 1959)	Richardson, R.B.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Robinson, T. B.
Cole, C. W. H.	Robinson, W. F.
Currington, H. G.	Stroude, H. K. (from May, 1959)
Francis, Col. J. C. W.	Thulborn, R. W.
Frankham, Mrs. D. (to May, 1959)	Tilbrook, C. H.
Hopkins, P. N. J.	Truelove, F. W. (from May, 1959)
Hurrell, Mrs. M.	Turkentine, Mrs. D.
Jopling, J., M.B.E.	Waddelow, H. G.
King, P. F., M.B.E., M.A.	Walker, D. L.
Lewin, Mrs. M. V. V.	Walkling, E. J.
Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M., M.A.	Watson, J. G.
Mander, P. H.	Wilkin, S. W., J.P.
Manning, M. A.	Wordingham, S. L. C.
Newton, Maj. Gen. T. C., C.B., D.S.O., J.P.	

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health	— J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	— E. B. Newman, A.R.S.H., F.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
District Inspectors	— N. D. Addison, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.
	— J. Holford, M.R.S.H.
Clerk	— Mrs. M. O. Good.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1959, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/60 dated 8th January, 1960, and the first since I took up my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on the 1st April, 1959. The ease with which I was able to assume office and take over an efficiently running department is a tribute to the work of my predecessor, Dr. P. A. Tyser, and the organisation he had developed so successfully during the eight years he held this appointment.

Vital Statistics

The rise in population from 42,450 to 42,980 demonstrated the continuation of the trend which has been evident in the district for many years. When future plans for further housing development in the district are considered it is to be expected that this rise will continue. The birth rate rose from 17.6 to 18.3 and compensated for the slight fall which took place last year, but the death rate remained almost the same at 11.3. A fall from 24.1 per thousand to 12.7 per thousand brought the infant mortality rate back to a level more in keeping with the diminishing rates of recent years.

Infectious Diseases

1959 was remarkable for the epidemic of measles which continued locally and nationally well into the summer. Some 1,332 cases were notified as compared with 58 the previous year. No fatalities occurred, however, although a fairly high proportion of cases developed complications.

Two cases of typhoid were notified and it seems practically certain that in both these cases the infection was acquired in Spain and no fresh cases occurred in the district.

The occurrence of anthrax amongst a herd of cattle in November necessitated the destruction of a considerable quantity of milk until the herd could be successfully inoculated. Fortunately, however, no spread of infection either to other cattle in the herd or to humans occurred.

Again there was a substantial decrease in the number of cases on the tuberculosis register.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified.

Sanitary Circumstances

It is with considerable satisfaction that the demolition of the last of the temporary hutments can be reported. While they have fulfilled an urgent need their continuing occupation represented not only a serious problem but also a considerable challenge. The residuum of tenants in temporary accommodation are often the most difficult to rehouse as they present problems of one kind or another and have often proved to be unsatisfactory tenants. It is essential, not only for their own well being, but also for that of the whole community, that these families are rehoused in permanent housing within the villages and not isolated in some inaccessible camp site where day to day social intercourse is sadly lacking and where it is difficult for the domiciliary health services to give adequate support. The need for occasional emergency temporary housing will always remain, however, and to fulfil this purpose a block of condemned cottages at Fulbourn were modernised to provide such accommodation for a period of seven years.

Much progress has been made in the slum clearance programme and throughout the district a continually rising housing standard is apparent.

Some 372 applications for discretionary improvement grants have been approved (up to 31st March, 1960) and over 100 applications had been received for the new standard improvement grants. 285 new houses were built by private enterprise and some 500/600 more are proposed for the near future.

During 1959 great progress was made in the sewerage of the villages, some contracts nearing completion, others started and further schemes were in the course of preparation. If no further restrictions on capital expenditure arise not many years will elapse before all the larger villages enjoy the amenities of water supply and sewerage previously thought to be the prerogative of urban areas.

This has been a busy year for the staff of the public health department as they have worked to meet the needs of an expanding community and I am pleased to record my thanks for their willing and enthusiastic support throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

July, 1960.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	390	371	761
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	10	26
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	406	381	787

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.3
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.06)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.4
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.5

Still Births

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	11	18
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
							7	11	18

Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.8
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.7

							Male	Female	Total
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	242	242	484
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.86)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.7
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 (6)	3 (3)	10 (9)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 (6)	3 (3)	10 (9)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets: all the males and one female were under one week of age.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.7
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.4
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31.1
Legitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.1
Illegitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.3 %
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.2
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
*Birth Rate	14.7	15.4	15.7	17.7	17.6	18.3
*Death Rate	11.0	11.3	12.0	11.1	11.2	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	15.2	11.3	18.6	13.5	24.1	12.7
	(9)	(7)	(12)	(10)	(18)	(10)

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	9
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	7	5	12
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	20	13	33
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	38	30	68
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	69	63	132
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	90	121	211
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	242	242	484

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

"The Cambridgeshire United District (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951" provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. E. B. Newman remains as Chief Public Health Inspector with Mr. N. D. Addison and Mr. J. Holford to assist him.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1959

Measles

The epidemic which raged unabated until the Summer, both nationally and locally, was exceptional not only because of the number of cases but also because the epidemic continued well into the third quarter of the year before it abated. An investigation carried out by two general practitioners in one village demonstrated a high proportion of complications (35.5%) of which bronchitis or broncho pneumonia were by far the commonest.

Although no fatalities occurred this high number of cases with complications does suggest that the unconcern with which many people regard a child with measles is somewhat unjustifiable.

Dysentery

Although two cases of dysentery occurred in Fulbourn Hospital no repetition of last year's epidemic developed. The speed and the efficiency with which the hospital authorities instituted preventive measures must have played a large part in limiting spread of the infection. Such other cases that occurred throughout the year were sporadic and unrelated to each other. However, three cases which were notified during the last few days of the year proved to be the start of a minor epidemic which developed in the Waterbeach area in the first quarter of 1960.

There is little need to comment on the other infectious diseases except to record that once again no cases of poliomyelitis occurred within the district.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such Authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1959

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Totals
			Paralytic	Non Paralytic				
Under 1 year	—	4	—	—	26	—	—	30
1—	2	1	—	—	71	—	—	74
2—	1	3	—	—	89	—	—	93
3—	1	2	—	—	135	—	1	139
4—	6	3	—	—	136	—	—	145
5—9	41	19	—	—	743	—	5	808
10—14	5	7	—	—	108	—	—	120
15—25	—	—	—	—	12	—	3	15
25 and over	—	—	—	—	12	—	9	21
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	56	39	—	—	1332	—	18	1445
1958 Totals	55	15	—	—	58	—	124	252

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	1	—	2	—	1	4
5—14	1	—	1	—	—	2
15—44	4	1	1	2	—	8
45—64	6	2	3	—	—	11
65 and over	4	2	—	—	—	6
Totals	16	5	7	2	1	31
1958 Totals	23	1	16	1	—	41

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
Annual case incidence and deaths 1949—1959

DISEASE	YEARS											
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	TOTAL	1959
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	493	76	723	59	478	15	509	232	516	58	3,159	1,332
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	84	81	171	131	115	175	173	81	96	15	1,122	39
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Fourteen respiratory cases were notified for the first time during the year and two non-respiratory. Nineteen respiratory cases, previously notified in other areas, were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year the number of persons on the respiratory register decreased by twenty-seven and the number of persons on the non-respiratory register decreased by fifteen.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1959

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	143	101	13	18	156	119
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	12	2	1	1	13	3
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	8	11	—	—	8	11
(b) From Death Returns	1	2	—	—	1	2
5. Number of cases removed from register	34	29	9	8	43	37
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	130	87	5	11	135	98

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.59

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	
0—15	4	1	4	—	8	1	9
15—25	11	4	9	3	20	7	27
25—35	21	—	29	2	50	2	52
35—45	35	—	22	3	57	3	60
45—55	39	—	13	3	52	3	55
55—65	11	—	7	—	18	—	18
65 and over	9	—	3	—	12	—	12
TOTALS	130	5	87	11	217	16	233

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

No burials were effected during the year under the provisos of this section.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Mr. E. B. Newman, F.P.H.I.A., A.M.P.H.E.)

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1959:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	5,984
General Sanitation	
Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	404
Visits re drainage or sewerage	1,333
Water supplies	259
Water samples taken	156
Factories Acts	125
Visits re verminous persons or property	10
Public cleansing visits	180
Shops Acts, etc.	227
Schools	92
Clean Air Act	15
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	
Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	105
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,308
Butchers shops	703
Preserved food premises:—	
(1) Sausage manufacturers	217
(2) Fried fish shops	19
Ice cream premises (retailers)	29
Cafes and restaurants	83
Other food premises	124
Bakehouses	28
Retail dairies	24
Licensed premises (public houses, etc.)	92
Housing	
Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	60
Reinspections	87
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	274
Reinspections	399
Moveable dwellings	220
Infectious Diseases	
Visits and enquiries	258
Disinfections	3

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post war housing progress:—

		<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwellings completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
"	"	52	16	45	113
"	"	77	10	—	87
"	"	21	70	—	91
"	"	115	—	—	115
"	"	133	—	—	133
"	"	106	—	—	106
"	"	184	—	—	184
"	"	229	70	—	299
"	"	121	28	—	149
"	"	90	—	—	90
"	"	102	—	—	102
"	"	69	—	—	69
"	"	126	—	—	126
		<u>1,443</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>1,687</u>

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversion of hutments.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31.3.60:—

Prefabricated Bungalows	..	50
Bungalows	.. ..	285
Flats	.. ..	45
Non-Traditional Houses	..	174
Hut Conversions	.. ..	225
Permanent Houses	.. ..	1,133
Total		<u>1,912</u>

Dwellings in course of erection or contracts prepared:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	4
Bungalows	.. ..	12
Flats	.. ..	4
Total		<u>20</u>

3. Private Development

Number of houses built by private enterprise during 1959:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	281
Conversions (Units)	.. ..	4
Total		<u>285</u>

4. Slum Clearance

The department carried out a very comprehensive review of the housing needs of the area in 1958 with particular reference to slum clearance and the future housing programme (see Annual Report 1958).

As a result of a further review in February, 1960, it was noted that the total number of houses scheduled had increased to 815 including those owner/occupied and derelict ones.

Action taken to date had resulted as follows:—

1. Houses demolished or demolition orders operative	287
2. Closing orders made or undertakings accepted	93
3. Houses reconditioned	43
Total.. .. .	423

The majority of the more urgent unfit properties have now been dealt with and those remaining are either in a less urgent category or, in the light of experience may not necessitate action (border line cases or owner/occupied dwellings).

The picture is constantly changing and much of the information derived from the original 1956 survey is becoming out of date but in the absence of a further survey (rather beyond the present resources of the department) some reasonable deductions are still possible, i.e.

- (a) Overall, it is anticipated that action by the public health department in respect of the remainder of the slum clearance programme will attract approximately a further 200 subsidies. Some 150 of these will be in respect of single persons or childless couples.
- (b) Some provision can be made from casual vacancies and the current programme, but the necessity for an allocation of new dwellings for slum clearance is apparent in the following areas:—

Histon/Cottenham
Harston
Shelford/Stapleford

- (c) The slum clearance needs of the remaining parishes are either met or can be met out of casual vacancies.

A summary of action taken during the year ending 31.12.59 was as follows:—

Houses inspected	334
Reinspections made	486
Demolition orders made	25
Houses demolished	51
Undertakings accepted	2
Undertakings cancelled	Nil
Houses made fit	92
Closing orders made	28

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following total action has been taken (up to 31.12.59):—

Houses demolished	612
Demolition orders not yet complied with	84
Houses demolished voluntarily	54
Houses subject to undertakings	87
Houses or parts closed	58
Houses made fit by formal action	30
Houses made fit by informal action	1,221

5. Temporary Hutments

One is pleased to record that no families now remain in hutments. All the 284 hutments originally taken over by the Council have now been vacated and demolished.

6. Requisitioning

All the 56 properties requisitioned by the Council have now been released.

7. Improvement Grants (Discretionary)

The Council has operated this scheme since its inception apart from two periods when applications were suspended owing to the large numbers in hand. A summary of action taken since the introduction of the Act (up to 31st March, 1960) is as follows:—

Total applications for grants received	..	..	..	..	..	..	380
Total applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	372
Total applications disapproved	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Total number of dwellings involved	..	..	..	..	..	..	507
Total cost of approved work (not withdrawn)	..	..	..	..	..	£237,494	4 0
Average total cost per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£468	8 7
Total amount of grant involved	..	..	..	..	..	£115,091	14 7
Average amount of grant per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£227	0 1
Total payments made up to 31.3.60	..	..	..	..	..	£99,465	10 11

Approved schemes provided for the following:—

1. Remedying fundamental defects in the structure of the dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
2. Fitting larger windows to improve light and ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	134
3. Laying on internal water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
4. Installation of hot water system	..	..	..	..	..	..	484
5. Provision of water closet	..	..	..	..	..	..	422
6. Provision of bath	..	..	..	..	..	..	455
7. Provision of sink	..	..	..	..	..	..	232
8. Provision of new or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	453
9. Provision of gas or electric points	..	..	..	..	..	..	418
10. Installation of new heating appliances	..	..	..	..	..	..	348
11. Provision of new or improved food stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	208
12. Provision of solid fuel cooking appliances	..	..	..	..	..	..	133
13. Provision of fuel stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
13. Additional accommodation:							
(a) living room(s)	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
(b) bedroom(s)	..	..	..	..	..	..	37

It is interesting to note that the dwellings included in approved schemes were owned as follows:—

(a) Owner/occupiers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
(b) Small property owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
(c) Large individual property owners (exceeding 10)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
(d) Estates, Property Companies, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139

Improvements Grants (Standard)

Since the introduction of the standard grant scheme in June, 1959, over 100 applications have been received, of which 40 have received final approval. This scheme is much simpler in operation and will be of great benefit in raising the standard of amenities in the area. In many cases a standard grant is more appropriate than a discretionary one unless the work involves structural additions and every encouragement is being given to owners to take advantage of the scheme.

8. Rent Act, 1957

A summary of the action taken during 1959 is appended below:—

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of decisions to issue certificates	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number issued	..	..	..	..	..	1
Certificates cancelled by the local authority	..	..	..	..	..	1

It will be seen that this Act has had very little impact on the landlord/tenant relationship in this area. The procedure is cumbersome and complicated for the average tenant but the knowledge that such a certificate of disrepair may be obtained has discouraged many landlords from claiming the maximum permitted rent.

9. Old People's Bungalows

The Council has an old people's unit of 18 bungalows (with a resident Warden) on its estate at Histon and a further 6 bungalows at Oakington completed in 1958. Work is in hand on the erection of 6 more bungalows in Lolworth and 40 more are included in the 1960 programme (Histon 12, Dry Drayton 14 and Little Shelford 14).

Consideration was given to the provision of a further unit with a resident Warden at Longstanton but enquiries revealed no great demand in this area. The project was therefore deferred for the present.

The Council's general policy is to include a high proportion of small units in their programme and of 58 dwellings recently completed at Comberton, 12 were small bungalows and 16 were one bedroomed flats. Similar at Teversham, 26 bungalows were provided out of a total of 50 dwellings. As the overall proportion of small units increases the Council should be well placed to care for the elderly folk in the area.

10. The Remaining Problem

The remaining problem may be divided into three parts:—

1. The completion of the slum clearance programme.
2. Reducing the general housing list, and
3. To determine the future housing policy when 1 and 2 have been dealt with.

One can foresee the end of slum clearance in the district—see the remarks in paragraph 4.

The present housing list stands at approximately 800 and is in the process of review. If the Council's conditions are strictly observed it is probable that no more than 400 cases are in urgent need of accommodation. In this connection it must be remembered that the Council has built 3,007 permanent dwellings (up to 31.3.60) out of a total of 13,615 houses in the area, i.e. nearly 1 in every 4 dwellings is a Council house. With this large number of properties the casual vacancy rate is relatively high (between 150 and 200 per annum) and a great many of the more urgent cases can be helped without any further substantial building programme.

Another factor of importance is the rapid private development taking place in the district. 285 new dwellings were erected last year by private enterprise and proposals have been before the Council for 500/600 more in the near future. With the Council having only 20 dwellings under contract at present the emphasis is rapidly swinging over to private development. Apart therefore, from the continued need for old people's bungalows the time is not far distant when the Council's house building programme can be considerably reduced. It is to be hoped that great emphasis will then be given to the improvement of existing private and Council owned properties, taking full advantage of the improvement grant schemes available.

11. Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1959:—

Number of licences for single caravans issued during the year	..	..	..	38
Number refused	..	..	..	Nil
Number of new site licences issued during year	..	..	..	7
Vehicles involved	..	..	..	70
Number of site licences refused	..	..	..	Nil
Total number of individual licences in force at 31.12.59	..	..	..	128
Total number of site licences in force at 31.12.59	..	..	..	40
Total number of vehicles involved	..	..	..	373
Inspections made during year	..	..	..	220

Somewhat surprisingly there is still a heavy demand for residential caravan sites in the area, notwithstanding the fact that 7 new sites catering for 70 caravans were approved during the year. It is significant to note that there are over 500 residential caravans licensed in the district.

Whilst the majority of sites are of a reasonably good standard it is felt that better progress could be achieved if more sites were available and/or the present legislation was considerably strengthened. With a surplus of sites the poorer ones would not be patronised and it is to be hoped that the Caravan

Sites and Control of Development Bill when it reaches the statute book will offer better measures of control than the cumbersome and largely ineffective procedures under the present Public Health Act, 1936, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

Generally speaking the existing sites in the area have been well maintained and the site operators co-operate with the department very well. Pressure from caravan sales organisations results in occasional overcrowding unless strictly controlled and one would very much like to eliminate the sub-letting of caravans, which practice produces the majority of the rehousing problems.

TABLE 1
POST WAR HOUSING
PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses allocated and completed since the war including those under contract or commenced at 31.3.60).

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	54	12	54	12	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	19	10	—	—
Comberton	34	28	32	24	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	76	8	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	24	2	24	2	—	—
Fen Drayton	20	4	20	4	—	—
Fulbourn	70	18	70	18	10	10
Girton	85	20	85	20	—	—
Grantchester	8	—	8	—	—	—
Graveley	14	6	14	6	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	38	15	38	15	—	—
Histon	102	22	102	22	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	6	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	19	24	19	10	10
Over	22	5	22	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Shelford, Great	144	42	144	42	10	10
Shelford, Little	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	28	6	28	6	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	36	26	34	20	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	53	40	53	40	11	11
Wilbraham, Great	8	—	8	—	—	—
Wilbraham, Little	18	6	18	6	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	1,311	346	1,307	330	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

Since the mains supply is now available throughout the Council's area (apart from a few isolated properties) the only main laying during the year was in respect of 3 small guarantee extensions at Oakington Road, Cottenham, Longstanton Road, Swavesey and Landbeach Road, Milton.

The general position with regard to water supplies in the area, already complicated, has been rendered more difficult owing to the over-riding influence of the impending regrouping of undertakings. Supplies are drawn from 10 sources, 4 of which are outside the Council's district. These include supplies from 1 statutory company, 1 joint water board and 3 small works owned by the Council. Distribution is complicated and many of the mains are of considerable age and of inadequate size for present day requirements. The water, with the exception of that from the statutory company, is generally very hard and the capital works necessary to remedy some of these difficulties have been deferred until the outcome of the regrouping is known.

Regrouping of Water Undertakings

There are only 2 statutory authorities in this area, i.e. the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company and the Council, although water is drawn from a number of sources including the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board (a bulk supply board).

It now seems clear that the Minister favours the absorption by the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company of the other undertakings in the area and negotiations with some authorities are in progress to this end.

The Council is naturally opposed to this course of action since it would have no representation on the new board. Whatever the outcome it is to be hoped that the final decision will not be long delayed.

Sufficiency of Supply

The hot, dry summer of 1959 placed a great strain on water resources generally, and especially in the Over/Willingham area. This was due, not so much to insufficiency of supply, but to (1) the greatly increased use of water for horticultural irrigation purposes and (2) the inadequacy of the old distribution system, especially at Willingham. In June the position became so acute that it was necessary to take an emergency supply from the trunk main of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board which crosses the district near Over. Negotiations are in hand for a supply of this kind to be available on a more permanent basis. There can be no doubt that in the event of a further dry summer the Council's resources at Over and Willingham will be unable to meet the demands of both the domestic consumer and the horticulturist without some additional supply source.

Difficulties also arose during peak consumption periods at a number of points, such as Boxworth End, Swavesey and Caldecote, mainly due to distribution troubles, small mains and lack of pressure. Large capital expenditure will be necessary to effect a permanent supply.

Chlorination and Softening

With the exception of the Council's small works at Harston (population approximately 1,300) all the public supplies in the area are chlorinated.

As will be seen from Table No. 3 water supplied by the Cambridge Company is softened before distribution and that from the Council's well at Harston is naturally very soft. The remaining supplies are very hard, especially that of the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board which is often as high as 450 parts per million. Although the Minister has consented to the installation of softening plant this is yet another scheme which has been be-devilled by the prospect of 'regrouping'.

Sampling

All public supplies are sampled regularly for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratories and full chemical and bacteriological reports are obtained quarterly from the Public Analyst. The results are shown in Table No. 2.

TABLE No. 2
WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.59

Parish	Public Supplies				Private Supplies			
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.	Chemical	Bac.
Barton	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	4
Boxworth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Childerley	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cottenham	4	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fulbourn	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Girton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Graveley	2	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
Harston	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haslingfield	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impington	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lolworth	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longstanton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newton	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
Over	3	17	—	—	—	1	—	1
Papworth St. Agnes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Shelford, Great	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	8
Stapleford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Stow-cum-Quy	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swavesey	4	15	—	6	—	—	—	—
Waterbeach	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—
Wilbraham, Great	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Willingham	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	24	86	1	9	—	11	—	25

The unsatisfactory samples from public supplies were usually due to minor bacterial contamination of taps and mains due to disturbance, bursts, etc., and were quickly eliminated.

The 25 unsatisfactory samples from private supplies were well distributed throughout the district 8 of them being in connection with an investigation into a private source supplying several properties. The trouble was ultimately traced to the storage tanks which after cleansing and covering, produced satisfactory results. In all other cases properties were connected to the public supply or the wells improved.

Typical results of analyses from the five main sources of supply are set out in the following table:—

TABLE NO. 3.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Test	Cambridge Water Co.	Willingham Waterworks	Joint Water Board	Harston Waterworks	Over Waterworks
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.9	6.9
Parts per 100,000					
Chlorine	2.0	3.85	8.0	2.10	6.50
Ammonia (free and saline)	0.0010	0.0006	0.0128	0.0362	0.0030
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0006	0.0076	0.0042	0.0006	0.0258
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0445	0.0481	0.0378	0.0227	0.1807
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Nitrates	0.70	1.55	absent	absent	0.05
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Bacteriological Examination					
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maximum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	12.8	40.4	47.0	6.0	46.5
Minimum hardness during year (parts per 100,000)	12.2	37.4	30.0	5.3	44.4

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING 31.12.59

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	259
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Samples reported fit:							
(a) public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
(b) private supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Samples reported unfit:							
(a) public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(b) private supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Water supplies improved as a result of action by the department	..	..	..	..	..	..	11

TABLE NO. 4

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.60

PARISH	Population 1951 Census	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.60	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)
Barton	528	C.R.D.C.	201	153
Bourn	1,053	C.R.D.C.	282	260
Boxworth	196	C.R.D.C.	71	68
Caldecote	396	C.R.D.C.	136	128
Caxton	375	C.R.D.C.	125	123
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	6
Comberton	597	C.R.D.C.	252	228
Conington	132	C.R.D.C.	46	46
Coton	519	C.W.W.	181	166
Cottenham	2,440	C.R.D.C.	925	907
Croxton	170	C.R.D.C.	66	60
Dry Drayton	405	C.R.D.C.	125	118
Elsworth	515	C.R.D.C.	160	159
Eltisley	276	C.R.D.C.	98	97
Fen Ditton	632	C.W.W.	218	191
Fen Drayton	483	C.R.D.C.	154	147
Fulbourn	2,413	C.W.W.	647	607
Girton	1,931	C.W.W.	862	855
Grantchester	493	C.W.W.	171	165
Graveley	218	C.R.D.C.	62	57
Hardwick	471	C.R.D.C.	168	157
Harlton	236	C.R.D.C.	87	74
Harston	938	C.R.D.C.	366	356
Haslingford	1,142	C.R.D.C.	290	255
Hauxton	381	C.R.D.C.	149	146
Histon	2,555	C.W.W.	1,085	1,075
Horningsea	325	C.R.D.C.	127	116
Impington	1,301	C.W.W.	444	442
Knapwell	109	C.R.D.C.	37	32
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	213	181
Lolworth	86	C.R.D.C.	43	31
Longstanton	1,481	C.R.D.C.	218	214
Madingley	182	C.W.W.	70	65
Milton	738	C.W.W.	257	226
Newton	279	C.R.D.C.	104	84
Oakington	500	C.R.D.C.	220	211
Over	906	C.R.D.C.	345	313
Papworth Everard	1,205	C.R.D.C.	275	275
Papworth St. Agnes	88	C.R.D.C.	32	31
Rampton	221	C.R.D.C.	92	88
Shelford, Great	2,318	C.W.W.	1,189	1,162
Shelford, Little	658	C.W.W.	224	195
Stapleford	831	C.W.W.	463	413
Stow-cum-Quy	527	C.R.D.C.	147	130
Swavesey	927	C.R.D.C.	325	314
Teversham	571	C.W.W.	227	208
Toft	250	C.R.D.C.	91	88
Waterbeach	2,630	C.R.D.C.	593	525
Westwick	61	C.R.D.C.	14	14
Wilbraham, Great	435	C.W.W.	147	132
Wilbraham, Little	266	C.R.D.C.	135	126
Willingham	1,623	C.R.D.C.	649	635
Totals	38,645		13,615	12,855 (94.4%)

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The Chief Public Health Inspector is also responsible for public cleansing and from the 1st April, 1959, the following schedules were operated:—

Weekly

Parish	No. of Houses
Girton	862
Harston	366
Hauxton	149
Histon	1,085
Impington	444
Shelford, Great	1,189
Shelford, Little	224
Stapleford	463
8 Parishes	4,782 houses (35%)

Fortnightly

Parish	No. of Houses	Parish	No. of Houses	Parish	No. of Houses
Barton	201	Fen Drayton	154	Oakington	220
Bourn	282	Fulbourn	647	Over	345
Boxworth	71	Grantchester	171	Papworth Everard	275
Caldecote	136	Graveley	62	Papworth St. Agnes	32
Caxton	125	Hardwick	168	Rampton	92
Childerley	7	Harlton	87	Stow-cum-Quy	147
Comberton	252	Haslingfield	290	Swavesey	325
Conington	46	Horningsea	127	Teversham	227
Coton	181	Knapwell	37	Toft	91
Cottenham	925	Landbeach	213	Waterbeach	593
Croxton	66	Lolworth	43	Westwick	14
Dry Drayton	125	Longstanton	218	Wilbraham, Great	147
Elsworth	160	Madingley	70	Wilbraham, Little	135
Eltisley	98	Milton	257	Willingham	649
Fen Ditton	218	Newton	104		
44 Parishes 8,833 Houses (65%)					

It will be noted that with effect from 1st April, 1959, none of the parishes in the Council's area receive a refuse collection less frequently than once per fortnight, i.e. 35% of the houses are cleared weekly in the semi-urban areas and 65% fortnightly. This is a marked improvement on the old system in which 48% of the houses were only collected monthly. Bearing in mind the fact that the Council's area covers 174 square miles and includes 52 villages the new schedules represent quite an achievement. The service is, of necessity, a costly one having regard to the long hauls involved and it is doubtful whether a greater frequency of collection can be achieved at an economical figure however desirable it may be. One would also like to eliminate the curb-side collection but without the co-operation of householders in this respect the cost of the service would be quite prohibitive. As it is the large number of new dwellings being erected in the parishes adjoining Cambridge and the increasing

bulk of the refuse creates a difficult problem in the maintenance of the present service. With each member of the cleansing staff entitled to at least a fortnight's holiday and the difficulties associated with Bank Holidays some curtailment of the service on these occasions has proved inevitable. No surplus labour is available.

The present schedules are carried out by five diesel engined 16/18 cu. yd. vehicles of the fore and aft tipping type with a 12 cu. yd. side loading vehicle (petrol) as reserve. The fifth diesel vehicle was delivered in February 1960 and replaced the 12/15 cu. yd. moving floor vehicle taken out of service.

The rate equivalent for 1959/60 (collection and disposal) is 11.1d. pence which is not unreasonable having regard to the character of the district and the increase in the frequency of collections.

Disposal

The disposal of some 10,000 tons of refuse annually, in a flat area such as this, is a very real problem if nuisance is to be avoided. The only available sites are usually shallow gravel workings or disused chalk pits and some of these are precluded by reason of a high water table. Four tips at strategic points throughout the district are in use—the northern area being well catered for. Facilities in the southern area are very limited.

Having regard to our experience last year with persistent fly problems at Haslingfield tip it was decided to fire the tip in August. This naturally burnt for several months after which it was bulldozed and consolidated. Refuse is now burnt immediately on arrival and the residue levelled. So far this system seems to be the ideal arrangement giving much greater tipping capacity, a compacted surface and freedom from flies and other pests. The general task of disposal would be greatly simplified if householders could be encouraged to put all putrescible matter on the garden compost heap and to burn all waste paper and cartons.

Collection of Salvage

The amount of waste paper and cardboard produced from the average household is quite remarkable and in consequence the type of refuse collected is constantly increasing in bulk, necessitating larger and larger vehicles.

Naturally, therefore it would be an advantage if separate collections for waste paper could be organised economically. The available prices are still too low to merit the additional labour and plant involved and a guaranteed outlet is by no means ensured.

Statistics

Briefly the cost statements for the year ending 31st March, 1960, reveal the following:—

Total mileage travelled	..	..	..	..	..	63,474 miles
Cost per mile (excluding loan charges)	..	..	..	..	..	12.91 pence
Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	10,808 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	..	..	..	..	..	£1 8 9
Estimated net cost per ton (after deduction of income)	..	..	..	..	..	£1 8 2
Estimated number of clearances	..	..	..	..	..	478,322 clearances
Average cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	7.6 pence
Estimated average miles per ton	..	..	..	..	..	5.9 miles
Estimated miles per gallon (petrol)	..	..	..	..	..	7.2 m.p.g.
Estimated miles per gallon (diesel)	..	..	..	..	..	11.8 m.p.g.
Net annual cost per 1,000 dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	£1,116 12 7
Net annual cost per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	£353 14 5

Cesspool Emptying

The Council operates 2 Karrier/Yorkshire 700 gallon cesspool emptiers. One is retained mainly on Council work, desludging small sewage plants, emptying and cleansing village drains and catchpits, etc. The other is engaged on the emptying of private cesspools on a re-chargeable basis in those parishes where no public sewers are available. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil which is undertaken in 1 parish. The Council's charge for casual cesspool emptying is 35/- plus 15/- for each additional load and has remained unchanged since 1951. It does not represent the total cost and is subsidised to some extent for the general rate.

A summary of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1960, is as follows:—

Actual mileage travelled	18,458 miles
Estimated cost per mile	1s. 5.4d. per mile
Number of clearances made	1,266
Estimated cost per clearance	£2 6 1
Estimated number of loads disposed of	1,865
Estimated cost per load	£1 11 3

Disposal of cesspool contents is mainly effected by the use of public sewers and sewage disposal works. It is difficult however to select a disposal point which satisfies the Engineer's department and is not a source of annoyance to nearby residents. Only occasionally can agricultural land be used without risk of nuisance or danger to health.

Night Soil Collection

No general collection of night soil is undertaken by the Council but a private firm of contractors carries out a service throughout the district at a nominal charge of approximately 1/3 per clearance. This service is widely used.

The Council continues to carry out the following weekly collections:—

Waterbeach (approximately 350 pails) by direct labour.
Grantchester (approximately 33 pails) by private contract.

The work carried out by the Council's direct labour in the parish of Waterbeach during the year ending 31st March, 1960 was as follows:—

Total bucket clearances	17,940
Estimated cost per clearance	5.1 pence

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

The City authorities operate 3 open air swimming pools, at 2 of which the water is chlorinated. There are no public swimming pools in the Council's area although the River Cam is used extensively both above and below Cambridge. The condition of the river in the dry summer months is a matter of concern both to the Great Ouse River Board and the public health department. Possible sources of pollution are gradually being eliminated.

One small swimming pool has been under construction by voluntary labour at Girton Glebe school and will come under the supervision of the department when completed and in use. Originally intended to be on a "fill and empty" basis it now incorporates a re-circulation system and chlorination.

SHOPS ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the department during the year:—

Total number of shops on register (31.12.59)	284
Inspections recorded	227*
(* including visits for other purposes)	

No statutory action was necessary during the year and no case was revealed of serious infringement of the Shops Act insofar as the Council's duties are concerned, which exclude enforcement of those sections dealing with the hours of closing, etc.

VERMINOUS PERSONS OR PREMISES

In view of the general improvement in living standards and accommodation there is little call upon the services of the department in this field, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Visits made	10
Premises fumigated	3

Facilities are available by courtesy of the United Cambridge Hospitals for the cleansing of verminous persons and bedding where necessary. Bedding and clothing from a family affected with Scabies was treated by this means and a number of articles of bedding were fumigated at the request of householders where deaths had occurred in the families. The services of the cleansing staff and Pests Officer are available for the cleaning up of premises vacated by old people.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Public Schemes

During the year the sewers in the remainder of Great Shelford were completed and put into operation. The contract for sewerage Little Shelford and Stapleford was let and work in Little Shelford is nearing completion.

Work has been commenced on the scheme for sewerage the parish of Cottenham (approx. population 2,500) and good progress is being made. Not only will this scheme meet an urgent need on public health grounds it will also make provision for the new Village College and the Council's new housing site, enabling the scheduled unfit properties in the village to be dealt with.

The scheme prepared by the University of Cambridge, as owners of the village, for the sewerage of Madingley in conjunction with the Council, was completed during the year. It is intended that the sewers and disposal works will be taken over by the Council at the end of the maintenance period. This scheme has facilitated the grant aided improvement of some 20 cottages in the village and will enable the Council to improve the drainage arrangements at their own site.

A scheme has been prepared to sewer the remainder of Teversham village. The sewers will discharge into the existing Fulbourn disposal works and work will be commenced in early 1960.

A contract has been let also for a small extension of the sewer at Impington to make provision for 34 Council houses and 13 private houses. Work is expected to commence in 1960.

Council Estates

The new sites at Comberton, Teversham and Waterbeach are fully sewerage and will provide for other existing Council houses in the vicinity.

Schemes for the provision of sewers and sewage disposal plants have been completed for housing sites in Dry Drayton, Fen Drayton and Hardwick during the year and progress continues to be made with the connection of Council houses to the sewers. The following schemes were carried out in 1959:—

Longstanton	13 houses
Comberton	36 houses
Dry Drayton	19 houses
Teversham	12 houses
Impington	10 houses (16 more in hand)
Great Shelford	28 houses
Fulbourn	49 houses (work in hand)

To date some 588 Council houses have been connected to public or estate sewers (not including new dwellings).

Schemes are being prepared for 6 houses at Fen Drayton, 19 at Dry Drayton and at 16 Hardwick.

Drainage and Sewer Connections (Private Property)

The public health inspectors are responsible for the supervision of all new drainage to existing buildings, including connection to the public sewers (excluding work in the highway). This work is carried out in collaboration with the Engineer's department and represents a considerable proportion of the inspectors' time, especially when new public sewers come into use.

Every encouragement is given to householders to connect their properties, including a scheme whereby the cost can be spread over several years. The new standard grant scheme is also available in many cases and in consequence good progress has been made as indicated in the following table:—

Total Number of Houses Connected to Public Sewers at 31.3.60

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Fulbourn	144	302
Girton	146	598
Histon	182	688
Impington	54	208
Milton	57	109
Shelford, Great	275	727
Teversham	62	11
Totals	920	2,643

Although the provision of sewerage facilities in this area did not commence until after the last war, progress since has been relatively good and would no doubt have been even better had the necessary technical staff been available. In the past, priorities for sewerage amongst the Council's 52 villages have been decided on pure public health grounds but a new factor has arisen which may well call for a revision of such priorities. Building land in those necklace villages planned to receive the 'over-spill' of Cambridge City is now so scarce that intensive speculative development is being carried out (and projected) in the villages beyond. Much of this land is unsuitable for the installation of individual cesspools or septic tanks and it is obviously desirable that consideration should be given to sewerage in these areas so as to enable the Planning Authority to channel development accordingly. Further, it is often comparatively easy to persuade a developer to install a proper sewage disposal plant for sites of 20 or more houses so long as the Council would be prepared to maintain the plant on completion. This, so far, the Council has declined to do.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Council continues to offer a complete pest destruction service to the public and employs a full time Pests Officer and one operator working under the Chief Public Health Inspector. In the main, their time is taken up in the discharge of the Council's duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, both on private and Council property. A free rat destruction service is given to all domestic premises and work on business or industrial premises is carried out on a contract or recovery basis. Their services are also available for the destruction of other pests such as wasps, hornets, bats, moles, cockroaches, etc.

There are a number of private servicing companies who now undertake work previously carried out by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee on farms and of course, many farmers now elect to carry out their own rat destruction. The amount of this work available to the Council is therefore small, although area surveys are made from time to time to ensure that there is no serious infestation.

The Council's own premises such as refuse tips, sewage works and public ditches are under constant surveillance and treatment as required.

Since the withdrawal of the direct deficiency grant made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food up to 1st April, 1959, every effort has been made to increase the number of contracts and work of a recoverable nature but having regard to the circumstances outlined above, the field is very limited.

The net cost of the service now charged to the general rate is approximately £1,600 per annum or the equivalent of a penny rate—a sound investment in view of its contribution to good environmental hygiene and the extent to which the service is used (and appreciated) by the public.

Warfarin continues to be the principal poison employed with the occasional use of Zinc Phosphide and gassing. No serious infestation was noted during the year, although the service was in great demand for the destruction of wasps nests as a result of the hot dry summer. Over 240 nests were dealt with.

Table No. 5 shows briefly a summary of the work carried out during the period 1st April, 1959 to 31st December, 1959. It will be noted that this is for 9 months only (at the Ministry's request) to enable future reports to be brought into line with other statistical information.

TABLE NO. 5

Type of Property					
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area	55	13,615	1,000	520	15,190
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	210	—	9	219
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	27	5,002	52	250	5,331
Number of properties found to be infested with rats					
Major	4	23	5	4	36
Minor	8	1,098	7	28	1,141
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	12	1,057	12	32	1,113
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

A summary of the results achieved during this period is as follows:—

Total number of rats recovered	4,349
Total estimated kill (9 months)	17,396
Total number of wasps nests removed	241

Number of premises treated for:

Mice	30
Beetles	10
Flies	5
Moles	3
Bats	1
Ants	1
Mosquitos	1

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out by the department under the Factories Acts is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power registered at 31.12.59	129
Number of factories without mechanical power	4
Total number on register at 31.12.59	133
Inspections recorded	125
Notifications of outworkers received	13
Infected premises	Nil
Notices served	11

As a result of action taken during the year the following defects were revealed and remedied:—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Not separate for sexes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The majority of health and safety measures in factories are dealt with by H.M. Inspectors and the department's main function is to secure satisfactory sanitary accommodation as the Council's Surveyor is responsible for means of escape in case of fire (Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937). Most premises in the area are small and employ only small numbers. Consequently visits by the department are of a routine character and no serious problems were revealed during the year. In 3 cases completely new sanitary accommodation and staff ablutions were provided and in no case was statutory action necessary.

With the introduction of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, efforts were made to secure sanitary accommodation at those premises where large numbers of seasonal workers were employed, such as nurseries, fruit packing establishments, etc., and good results were achieved. The implementation of the Act insofar as field workers is concerned seems impracticable having regard to the weakness of the Act itself and the division of responsibility involved.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

It is to be regretted that the Council has not so far agreed to adopt the new Model Byelaw (Section 24) which is one of the contributions that rural authorities can make in the interests of clean air. It is a common misconception that the Act only applies to industrial areas. Nevertheless, the submission of applications for prior approval before the installation of new boiler plant is encouraged and the Council has an arrangement with the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service whereby advice can be obtained on any applications presenting unusual difficulty. Three such applications were received during the year, one of which was submitted to N.I.F.E.S. All were subsequently approved. Unless there is very close liaison with the Surveyor's department when considering plans for Byelaw approval, boilers can be installed without the knowledge of the public health department. This is especially true of the larger domestic types of installation.

One large hospital plant has been considerably improved by the installation of mechanical stokers pending the implementation of a large capital scheme to replace the overloaded boilers.

The majority of the industrial plants have now been converted for oil burning and even in a rural area of this kind a noticeable improvement has been effected.

SCHOOLS

The Education Authority's programme for 1959/60 included a number of improvements to schools in this area, notably Great Shelford, Histon, and Fen Ditton, and was highlighted by the completion and opening of Comberton Village College. This enabled small unsatisfactory schools at Harlton and Toft to be closed. The new village college at Cottenham is due to commence in 1960.

It is a source of great satisfaction to record the progress which has been made in recent years in raising the standard of the schools generally. Apart from one or two isolated instances the more unsatisfactory ones have been closed.

The main role of the public health department is concerned with the visiting of school meals kitchens and the regular sampling of school milk supplies.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1957

Premises registered at 31.12.59 1

Only one factory in the area is engaged on the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. No action was necessary during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1957

There are now no premises registered in the area and there are no markets held.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

As from the 1st April, 1959, the whole county became an 'eradication' area and subsequently an 'attested' area from October, 1959. This, coupled with the prohibition of the sale by retail of milk other than Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised, is progress indeed and the public health hazards associated with the consumption of raw milk have largely been eliminated.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) indicate the position in the area at 31.3.60:—

Number of wholesale producers in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Number of producer/retailers in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Number of retail purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
The following is a summary of the year's work under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations:—							
Number of distributors with premises in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Number of distributors with premises outside the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

TABLE No. 6

MILK SAMPLING 1959

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T.B.	Brucella Abortus
ROUTINE SAMPLING							
Tuberculin Tested	3	2	1	2	2	—	—
Pasteurised	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	3	1	2	2	—	—
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	2	2	—	1	1	—	—
Pasteurised	47	40	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	53	45	—	1	1	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	57	48	1	3	3	—	—

Includes 8 samples (pasteurised) where atmosphere shade was temperature over 65°F

Sampling of milk by the department is largely confined to routine samples from milk in course of delivery to ensure its freedom from contamination and pathogenic bacteria. Delivery in the district is now in the hands of a few large retailers and the task of sampling is thereby simplified. The department continues to sample the school milk supplies regularly on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

It will be seen from the above table that only one sample of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed test and that in no case was infection revealed on biological examination.

The standard of pasteurisation was well maintained and the school milk supplies proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In November, 1959, Anthrax was confirmed in a large dairy herd. A diversion order was made by the Medical Officer of Health requiring the milk to be sterilised before sale to the public. Unfortunately no local plant could be found capable of undertaking this treatment and the milk had to be destroyed for approximately 14 days, pending satisfactory inoculation of the remainder of the herd. Under the terms of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, it was not possible to recompense the farmer concerned in spite of his ready co-operation.

One new retail dairy was built during the year, complete with modern pasteurising, bottling and washing plant. In another large retail dairy new pasteurising and bottling plant was installed.

Having now assured a safe milk supply the only remaining problem is associated with delivery. The general public being more conscious of food hygiene are quick to observe and report the stained bottle or the foreign matter which occasionally appears in spite of the most elaborate precautions on the part of the dairyman. Unfortunately, no large scale mechanical plant for washing and filling bottles is fool proof and the human element still creeps in at times. Moreover, the public by their misuse of milk bottles are often themselves responsible in no small measure for the troubles which arise. The department is collaborating with the trade with a view to educating the public in this respect. The real solution would appear to be the use of non-returnable containers.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on register 31st December, 1959	..	..	..	..	13
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	28
Premises repaired, extended or improved	..	..	..	..	3
Improved equipment, etc.	..	..	..	..	2

Of the 13 remaining bakehouses, one remains most unsatisfactory and the owner has been given a time limit to close it or build new premises. One premises has been thoroughly reconditioned and improved and several have installed better equipment. Whilst the trade is not one of the easiest from a food hygiene point of view the bread produced by the small trader is often to be preferred to that mass produced by the large firms. No difficulties have arisen during the year although in several instances it has been necessary to emphasise the importance of regular inspection and cleansing of machinery.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955)

Total number on register 31st December, 1959	..	..	..	..	168
Sausage manufacturers	..	..	..	..	25
Fish fryers	..	..	..	..	8
Ice cream (sale only)	..	..	..	..	132

Earlier action under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, has resulted in these premises being brought up to the requisite standard and routine inspection only has been necessary. One unsatisfactory fish frying establishment was closed and new premises are almost completed.

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and the 132 registrations are for sale and storage only.

No loose ice cream is sold from registered premises and has almost disappeared from the vans of the itinerant trader. Pre-packed ice cream from the 3 well known national suppliers constitutes the main sales in the area and no difficulty has been experienced in securing compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

The following premises are subject to inspection by the department in addition to premises mentioned elsewhere in the report (bakehouses, preserved food premises, dairies, etc.):—

Food Shops	189
Cafes and Restaurants	16
Licensed Premises (Catering)	32
Clubs (excluding Old Peoples' Clubs)	5
Residential Establishments, Hospitals, etc.	7
Factory Canteens	11
School Canteens	17
As a result of 1,047 recorded visits, the following improvements were secured during the year:—	
New food shops	3
Structural improvements (new floors, ceilings, walls surfaces, etc.)	11
Installation of fixed hand basins	1
Hot water supplies	4
New working surfaces	4
New fittings—refrigerators, refrigerated displays, etc.	16
Redecoration	16
New sinks	1
New drainage and/or sanitary accommodation	1
Improved water supply	1

In addition to the above, one new transport cafe was built and two more substantially improved.

The County Agricultural Show was also held within the district during the year and all the catering arrangements were subject to close inspection by the department, which also provided the ancillary services such as refuse collection, etc.

Steady progress continues to be made in this field and the work of the inspectors is greatly facilitated by the ready co-operation of the traders and the support of the general public who are much more appreciative of good standards of food hygiene. No statutory action was necessary during the year although a number of complaints were dealt with concerning 'foreign bodies' in foodstuffs varying from a nail in powdered potatoes to glass in tinned peas. Each incident was closely investigated but no case of gross negligence was revealed.

LICENSED PREMISES

The licences of several more unsatisfactory premises have been surrendered and only 122 licensed houses remain of the 155 recorded in the department's survey of 1946. The general standard is now very good with the exception of 4 or 5 whose future remains uncertain and active steps are being taken to secure their improvement or closure. The department's responsibility is to ensure adequate glass washing facilities and sanitary accommodation for the public, plus full compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, especially where any form of catering is undertaken.

As a result of 92 visits to licensed premises during the year the following improvements were recorded:—

Premises substantially re-conditioned	2
Structural improvements	2
New or improved sanitary accommodation	6
New or improved drainage	5
New or improved glass washing facilities	3
Redecoration, etc.	8
Improved water supply	1
New fittings, etc.	4

MEAT INSPECTION

The nine small private slaughterhouses remain in operation but in only one case is there any slaughtering for export out of the district.

One other premises remains licensed for the occasional slaughter of animals at an animal research establishment.

Since the introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and the Regulations made thereunder, a great deal of advisory work has been undertaken. In all cases, substantial reconditioning will be necessary to bring the premises up to the required standard thereby presenting the owners with a problem, since the majority of slaughterhouses have only a limited throughput and the heavy expenditure may not be economically attractive. Nevertheless, at the time of writing firm proposals have been received in respect of 6 premises, although work has not so far been commenced.

Plans have also been approved for a large modern abattoir at Haslingfield to be erected by a private firm of butchers from outside the district. It is intended to supply the firm's own requirements primarily but will cater for local requirements if necessary. The construction has not commenced to date. The whole picture with regard to future slaughtering facilities in the area is at present obscure and the Council's report to the Minister is being deferred until the issue is clearer.

The Chief Inspector and the two district inspectors are all fully qualified in meat and food inspection and it has been possible to continue a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the area.

Appended below is a summary of the animals slaughtered and carcasses inspected during the year ending 31st December, 1959:—

TABLE NO. 7
SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1959

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep Lambs
Animals killed and inspected	1,039	53	70	3,219	22	4,333
All Diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses and offal con- demned	—	1	—	4	1	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	177	4	—	136	4	25
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	17.03	9.43	—	4.34	22.72	0.87
T.B. Only Whole carcasses and offal con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	11	—	—	25	—	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	1.05	—	—	0.77	—	—
Number of organs or parts con- demned—All Diseases						
Head	35	1	—	22	—	—
Lungs	10	—	—	8	—	1
Heart	42	1	—	8	—	—
Liver	101	—	—	120	1	21½
Spleen	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diaphragm	4	—	—	1	—	—
Kidney	1	—	—	1	—	—
Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesentery	1	—	—	5	—	—
Other	10	2	—	9	3	4
TOTAL	204	4	—	176	4	26½
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				71	(6.5%)*	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration				14		
* 1958 5.0% 1957 3.4% 1956 2.4%						

It will be seen that the total number of animals dealt with shows very little variation over that for the previous two years, i.e. 8,736 as against 8,621 for 1958 and 7,694 for 1957.

As in previous years it has been possible to maintain 100% inspection of animals slaughtered in the district and 1,308 visits were paid to slaughterhouses in the process. Whilst not involving any serious overtime the results represent a great deal of time and travelling on the part of the inspectors.

In general the quality of the meat has remained excellent and very few cows and sows were encountered. Perhaps the most gratifying aspect is the very low percentage of carcasses found to be affected with Tuberculosis (1.05% in cattle and only 0.77% in pigs). No doubt this reflects in some measure the success of the Ministry's eradication scheme.

More disturbing, however, is the continued increase in the incidence of *Cysticercus bovis*. The figure of 6.5% is the highest recorded in this area. Previous recorded figures were 2.4% in 1956, 3.4% in 1957 and 5.0% in 1958, and clearly show the steady increase in affected carcasses. This is partly due to very thorough inspection and probably also to the fact that beef cattle are being slaughtered much younger. (The incidence is small in older beasts). The often advanced argument that this parasitic infection is attributable to (i) the importation of Irish cattle and (ii) infected foreign workers, no longer holds good and it is quite apparent that the infection is now well established in this country, although there is little, if any, evidence of the tapeworm being found amongst the population.

Of the 71 affected carcasses, none were generalised and only 14 contained obviously viable cysts. These carcasses were submitted to refrigeration in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations set out in Memo 3 Meat. The remainder, containing non-viable cysts only were jointed under the supervision of the public health inspector and released.

The facilities offered by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Cambridge and the Veterinary Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are utilised in the examination of bacteriological specimens, etc., and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged. Specimens from 25 casualty animals were submitted and 10 were found to have pathogens present (40%). This compares with 42.2% last year.

It is pleasing to record that the meat derived from the slaughterhouses in the area remains of high quality and subject to 100% inspection.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-58

Licences to slaughter renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Total on Register 31.12.59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24

All licensed slaughterhouses have good lairage accommodation and the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations are complied with, particularly in respect of the feeding and watering of cattle awaiting slaughter. In only one instance was action necessary in connection with the handling of a casualty beast. As a result of discussions with the farmers and their veterinary surgeon future casualties which occur on premises remote from the slaughterhouse will be shot and bled on the spot and the carcase transported to the slaughterhouse for examination.

There would appear to be little training of prospective slaughtermen carried on in the area and no new licences were issued during the year. In course of time one can foresee a shortage of skilled operators as the old hands retire.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

Production, handling and storage methods in food manufacture have improved to such an extent that the intentional sale of unfit foodstuff is almost unknown. With the proper processing, pre-packing and the greatly improved display counters, refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets, the amount of spoilage is negligible. Consequently there is little call for the condemnation of foodstuffs. Complaints are mainly confined to goods which are, by reason of age, in a mouldy condition or where some extraneous matter has been found. With the most elaborate precautions it is still possible for the occasional 'foreign body' to find its way into some pre-packed food and cases of this kind are always followed up vigorously in consultation with the public health department of the area in which the factory is situated.

105 visits were made to various food premises for the purpose of sampling or special investigation, the results of which are reported elsewhere.

The total amount of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses is shown in Table No. 7 and in addition to this the following items were dealt with:—

- 3 Imported lambs.
- 21 lbs. pork.
- 39 lbs. beef.
- 12 lbs. bacon
- 4 tins corned beef.
- 54 cwt. of demarara sugar.
- 15 lbs. butter or margarine.

